

Wilderness ID Team Alternatives Analysis Process Documentation:

Background Information on Likelihood of Stand Replacement Fire Probability Data Used for Alternatives 2, 3, and 4:

Parks Data Label: probability of stand-replacement fire under extreme fire weather conditions.

Brief Description: This dataset was developed by Parks and others at the Rocky Mountain Research Station. It represents statistical model predictions of the relative likelihood of stand-replacement (high severity) fire in areas currently under tree cover. It does not predict the likelihood of fire occurrence, merely what is likely to occur should a fire happen. Extreme weather conditions are those moisture and temperature conditions that have been observed in the data only 5 percent of the time during active wildfire season.

Reference: Parks, S.A., L.M. Holsinger, M.H. Panunto, W.M. Jolly, S.Z. Dobrowski, and G.K. Dillon. High-severity fire: evaluating its key drivers and mapping its probability across western US forests. *Environmental Research Letters* 13(2018) 044037. Available online at <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aab791>,

Note on rationale for using predictions under extreme weather conditions: Although predictions were prepared for the average and median fire season weather conditions, the extreme was chosen for this purpose because extreme weather conditions are predicted to occur more frequently in the future. These conditions are when initial attack is most difficult and least likely to be successful. All of these factors are being considered by the analysis in the context that wilderness non-conforming uses (including mechanical restoration) will not be permitted in any areas recommended to Congress as potential wilderness.¹

Applied Criteria:

Alternative 1: 1986 Forest Plan

This is the “no action” alternative that analyzes effects if no changes were made to the previous forest plan (as amended). The 1986 forest plan recommended no new areas as wilderness, and therefore there is no necessity to develop analysis criteria for this alternative. Additionally, under the 1986 forest plan, both the Hell Hole and Lower San Francisco River Wilderness Study Areas were not recommended to Congress to be designated as wilderness, and so are also not recommended to Congress for designation as wilderness under this alternative.

¹ Although predictions were prepared for the average and median fire season weather conditions, which have been a more common occurrence, the extreme predictions were chosen for this purpose for two interrelated reasons. The first reason being that recently published peer-reviewed literature suggests that rather than attempting to treat all acres mechanically, targeting those treatments in areas more likely to experience stand-replacement fire can restore the adaptive capacity of the landscape. While additional work is likely necessary to optimize the placement of those treatments, the work of Parks and others serves as a first approximation. Furthermore, predictions of future climate suggest that extreme fire weather conditions are likely to become more common.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The DRAFT Proposed Forest Plan strives to balance consideration of stakeholder management concerns across the range of forest resources and consideration of the Gila National Forest's resource management niches of Dispersed Recreation, Traditional Uses, and Ecological Restoration.

The Gila National Forest fills a distinctive wilderness niche within the Southwest region, consisting of large, mostly contiguous wilderness areas, similar to Aldo Leopold's original vision when he recommended to the Forest Service that the Gila be preserved as wilderness. "By 'wilderness'", he wrote, "I mean a continuous stretch of country preserved in its natural state, open to lawful hunting and fishing, big enough to absorb a two weeks' pack trip, and kept devoid of roads, artificial trails, cottages, or other works of man."

Evaluated areas identified for analysis as a recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation under this alternative are determined by the responsible official (forest supervisor) in consideration of, but not necessarily limited to, the following analysis criteria:

Step 1 - *Unless the forest supervisor exercises the discretion to consider otherwise, each area included in this alternative should have received an overall evaluation of wilderness characteristics ranking of MODERATE/HIGH, HIGH, or OUTSTANDING, and also contribute to the existing Gila National Forest wilderness niche of a large, mostly contiguous wilderness complex.*

Step 2 - *Identify for forest supervisor consideration areas with more than 10% of their area being identified as potentially suitable for timber production. For more information on the timber suitability analysis, see the EIS.*

Step 3 - *Identify for forest supervisor consideration: areas with 10% or more of their forested ERU area coincident with moderate or greater relative probabilities of stand-replacement fire should a fire occur under extreme fire weather conditions; thus being candidates for restoration work that could include mechanical treatments.*

Step 4 - *Identify for forest supervisor consideration areas that have been identified as of importance to or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.*

Step 5 - *Identify for forest supervisor consideration areas that contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.*

Step 6 - *Identify for forest supervisor consideration areas that contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.*

Step 7 - *Identify for forest supervisor consideration areas where boundaries may be adjusted to allow exclusion of any of the management concerns identified above, or for any documented additional relevant factors considered by the forest supervisor, and determine if the remaining modified areas would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.*

Step 8 - *The final determination of which areas are to be included in this alternative will be decided by the forest supervisor's discretion, giving consideration of, but not necessarily limited to, the criteria identified above. Any additional relevant criteria that were considered will also be documented in the analysis of alternatives within the plan revision Environmental Impact Statement.*

Alternative 3:

Issues addressed under this alternative include restoration of rangelands and access to traditional recreation, cultural, and historical uses of the Forest. Traditional recreation, cultural and historical uses may include, but are not limited to, tribal areas of importance and gathering areas requiring motorized access, motorized access and maintenance for permitted grazing of livestock², wilderness nonconforming recreational uses (including, but not limited to mountain biking and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use) and gathering of forest products such as fuelwood.

This alternative emphasizes restoration objectives through mechanical treatments for grasslands and historically open-canopy woodlands and limits the use of prescribed fire.³

Evaluated areas identified for analysis as a recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation under this alternative are determined by the following analysis criteria:

Step 1 - *Determine if the area contains 10% or more area with relative probabilities of high severity fire moderate or greater in grasslands and historically open-canopy woodlands.*

- If the area does not contain 10% or more area with relative probabilities of high severity fire moderate or greater in the identified grassland/woodland ERUs, proceed to Step 2;
- If the area does contain more than 10% with relative probabilities of high severity fire moderate or greater in the identified grassland/woodland ERUs, determine if the boundary may be modified so that it does not, but still remains manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, preliminarily modify the boundary and proceed with the realigned area to Step 2;
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain 10% or more of lands with relative probabilities of high severity fire moderate or greater in the identified

² The Congressional Guidelines for Wilderness allow for consideration of allowing continued motorized use, on a case by case basis, for maintenance of range infrastructure in wilderness where it occurred prior to designation by Congress. It is considered as a factor here due to permittee concerns regarding the increased costs associated with non-motorized maintenance when motorized use may be limited or not approved by agency administrators.

³ This alternative focuses on restoration objectives for grasslands and open canopy woodlands where frequent, low severity fire was characteristic of historic conditions. While Pinyon-Juniper Woodland (PJ Woodland) is conceptualized in the ERU framework as a historically closed-canopy, infrequent, high severity ecosystem, areas where it occurs on slopes less than 30% are included here to account for probable mapping errors that have been observed by Forest staff. The PJ Woodland ERU is present on the Forest, although many areas have been erroneously mapped as such due to the prevalence and degree of departure from historical conditions. Project-level work will require field validation of woodland type to determine what restoration needs actually exist. However, for the purposes of this analysis, historic impacts are assumed to have been concentrated on slopes less than 30% leading to a higher likelihood that these areas were historically open canopy woodlands. This 30% threshold was established in consultation with range specialists and based on animal behavior and slope factors included in standard capacity calculations (Holecheck 1988). Historic overgrazing impacts were likely higher on these slope gradients than they were on steeper terrain.

grassland/woodland ERUs but still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from further consideration.

Step 2 - *Determine if the area contains lands that have been identified as of importance to or a gathering area by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access:*

- If the area does not contain tribal areas of importance or gathering areas but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics proceed to Step 3
- Determine if the area boundary may be modified so that it does not contain tribal areas of importance or gathering areas but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, preliminarily modify the boundary and proceed to Step 3.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that are important for them to have motorized access, and still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from further consideration.

Step 3 - *Determine if areas contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest:*

- If the area does not contain lands that have been identified as having feasible potential for a wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational use proceed to step 4.
- Determine if the area boundary may be modified so that it does not contain lands that have been identified as having feasible potential for a wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational use but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, preliminarily modify the boundary and proceed to step 4.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain lands that have been identified as having feasible potential for a wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational use, and still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from further consideration.

Step 4 - *Determine if areas contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that also require maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or other such types of improvements:*

- If the area does not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means, proceed to step 4.
- Determine if the area boundary may be modified so that it does not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that also require maintenance or access by motorized means but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, preliminarily modify the boundary and proceed to step 4.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that also require maintenance or access by motorized means, and still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from further consideration.

Step 5 - *Determine if areas contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means:*

- If the area does not contain more than 1 mile length of range fence that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means, the area is included for analysis within the EIS alternative.
- Determine if the area boundary may be modified so that it does not contain more than 1 mile length of range fence that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, the area is included for analysis within the EIS alternative.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain more than 1 mile length of range fence that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means, and still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from analysis within the EIS alternative.

Alternative 4:

This alternative emphasizes restoration objectives for forested/timberland vegetation types through mechanical treatments while limiting the use of prescribed fire. Areas with high relative probabilities of stand-replacement fire are considered in the context of the need for forest restoration. The alternative also takes into consideration access to traditional recreation, cultural, and historical uses of the Forest. Traditional recreation, cultural and historical uses may include, but are not limited to, tribal areas of importance and gathering areas that is important for them to have motorized access, motorized access and maintenance for permitted grazing of livestock, wilderness nonconforming recreational uses (including, but not limited to mountain biking and OHV use) and gathering of forest products such as fuelwood..

The areas with “high” probabilities of stand-replacement fire are being considered as in need of restoration work.

Evaluated areas identified for recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation under this alternative are determined by the following analysis criteria:

Step 1 - *Remove from consideration areas that contain 10% or greater lands Identified as Potentially Suitable for Timber Production under Step 1 of the Timber Suitability Analysis*

- If the area does not contain 10% or more area that is identified as may be suitable, proceed to step 2;
- If the area does contain more than 10% lands identified as may be suitable, determine if the boundary may be modified to so that contains less than 10%, but still remains manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, preliminarily modify the boundary and proceed with the realigned area to step 2;
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain 10% or more of lands that “may be suited for timber production” and remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from further consideration.

Step 2 - *Remove from further consideration areas that contain 10% or more area in forest/timber ERUs that have a moderate or higher probability of stand-replacement fire should a fire occur during extreme fire weather conditions*

- If the area does not contain 10% or more area identified as forested combined with moderate to high probability of stand-replacement fire occurring during extreme fire weather conditions, proceed to step 3;
- If the area does contain more than 10% of its area identified as forested combine with having moderate to high probability of stand-replacement fire occurring during extreme fire weather conditions, determine if the boundary may be modified so that it contains less than 10%, but still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, preliminarily modify the boundary and proceed with the realigned area to Step 3.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain 10% of its area identified as forested combined with having moderate or higher probability of stand-replacement fire should a fire occur during extreme fire weather conditions, the area is eliminated from further consideration.

Step 3 - *Determine if the area contains lands that have been identified as of importance to or a gathering area by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access:*

- If the area does not contain tribal areas of importance or gathering areas but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics proceed to Step 4.
- Determine if the area boundary may be modified so that it does not contain tribal areas of importance or gathering areas but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, preliminarily modify the boundary and proceed to Step 4.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that are important for them to have motorized access, and still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from further consideration.

Step 4 - *Determine if areas contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest:*

- If the area does not contain lands that have been identified as having feasible potential for a wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational use, proceed to step 5.
- Determine if the area boundary may be modified so that it does not contain lands that have been identified as having feasible potential for a wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational use but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, preliminarily modify the boundary and proceed to step 5.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain lands that have been identified as having feasible potential for a wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational use, and still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from further consideration.

Step 5 - *Determine if areas contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that also require maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar*

panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or other such types of improvements:

- If the area does not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that also require maintenance or access by motorized means, proceed to step 6.
- Determine if the area boundary may be modified so that it does not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that also require maintenance or access by motorized means but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, preliminarily modify the boundary and proceed to step 6.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that also require maintenance or access by motorized means, and still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from further consideration.

Step 6 - Determine if areas contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence contained within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means:

- If the area does not contain more than 1 mile length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means, the area is included for analysis within the EIS alternative.
- Determine if the area boundary may be modified so that it does not contain more than 1 mile length of range fence that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means but will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, the area is included for analysis within the EIS alternative.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not contain more than 1 mile length of range fence that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means, and still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from analysis within the EIS alternative.

Alternative 5:

Issues addressed under this alternative include emphasis on considering the greatest amount of areas with at least moderately ranked characteristics as recommended wilderness combined with emphasis of natural processes over use of mechanical treatments, and minimizing risk of wildfire to values at risk within the wildland-urban interface areas of the forest.

Evaluated areas identified for analysis as a recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation under this alternative are determined by the following analysis criteria:

Step 1 - Unless the Forest Supervisor (responsible official) exercises the authority to consider otherwise, each area to be included in the alternative has received an overall evaluation of wilderness characteristics ranking of MODERATE, MODERATE/HIGH, HIGH, or OUTSTANDING, and;

Step 2 - Determine if areas allow for mechanical restoration of defensible space adjacent to private property or contain WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

- If the area does not inhibit mechanical restoration of defensible space adjacent to private property and does not contain WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, the area is included for analysis within the EIS alternative.
- Determine if the area boundary may be modified so that it does not inhibit mechanical restoration of defensible space adjacent to private property and does not contain WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, but it will remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. If this may be accomplished, the area is included for analysis within the EIS alternative.
- If the area boundary cannot be modified so that it does not inhibit mechanical restoration of defensible space adjacent to private property and does not contain WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, and still remain manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the area is eliminated from analysis within the EIS alternative.

Evaluated Areas Carried Forward to Analysis Step

Q1-Largo

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked by the ID Team as “MODERATE” in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area. The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 47.82% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There are no lands in the area identified as “may be suitable”, move to step 2;

Step 2: There are less than 10% (4.66%) forested ERUs within the area, even though those forested areas have a moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring if fire should occur during extreme fire weather conditions. Move on to Step 3.

Step 3: The area has been determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that is important for them to have motorized access by members, and does not contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area has been determined to contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that also require maintenance or access by motorized means. Because they are dispersed on the mesa top throughout the area, and because Step 5 would demonstrate that most of the interior fenceline (more than 1 mile in overall length) is accessible by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means, it would not be possible to adjust area boundaries to eliminate these with a remaining area that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended -14,264.51 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain small areas important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, however these are easily accommodated by making only minor boundary adjustments.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

Q2-The Hub

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: the area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, although it was ranked as by the ID Team as MODERATE/HIGH in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

There is 37.59% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 27.34% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area that "may be suitable"; limiting the polygon to the northwest corner extent creates a polygon large enough to be manageable.

Step 2: There is 12.58% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area is forested ERUs with moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring if fire should occur during extreme fire weather conditions; a minor boundary adjustment would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, move to step 3.

Step 3: The modified area has been determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that is important for them to have motorized access by members, and to not contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Move to Step 4.

Step 4: The modified area has been preliminarily determined not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means (natural occurring lakes are enhanced and maintained for water storage by motorized means, pipelines and tanks). Most of the water developments were excluded from area boundaries during the Inventory and the remaining water developments are primarily located to the south and southeast, within the Slaughter Mesa portion, to the far northwest, and the northeast (Baca Canyon Pipeline) could be removed from area boundaries with a reduced area that would still be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue with modified polygon to Step 5.

Step 5: The modified area has been determined to contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence contained within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized

purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Additional reduction of the area to exclude these would create a size, shape, and configuration not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 34,084.74 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain small areas important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, however these are easily accommodated by making only minor boundary adjustments.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

Q4-Chavez Lake

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it ranked only as a MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 35.15% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There are no lands that are identified as "may be suitable for timber production".

Step 2: No forested ERUs; polygon moves to step 3.

Step 3: The area has been determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that are important for them to have motorized access by members, and has been determined to not contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Proceed to Step 4.

Step 4: The area has been determined to contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means (e.g., pipeline development to the northeast). It would not be possible to exclude these with a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 6,759.41 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain small areas important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, however these are easily accommodated by making only minor boundary adjustments.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

Q6-Fox Mountain

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 13.38% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments. Adjustment to polygon boundary can be made meets criteria for probability of high severity fire and leaving an area to the north-northwest manageable to protect wilderness characteristics; adjusted polygon moves to step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Move to Step 3.

Step 3: The area has been determined to contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means, however the area boundaries maybe adjusted to exclude these with a remaining area that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area has been preliminarily determined to contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence contained within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. With boundary adjustments eliminating the fence to the east and southwest (as well as a nearby pipeline from Step 3) a remaining area would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 50.37% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, due to

terrain, presence of roads, small size, shape and configuration (a very narrow pinch point in the middle of the area).

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 9,704.16 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain sizable areas in the eastern portion that are important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, boundary adjustments that eliminate WUI and defensible space would leave a remaining area consisting of the western portion would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

Q9-Apache Mountain

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

Step 1: There is 28.55% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 50.37% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 13,942.06 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain areas important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However these WUI and defensible space areas may be removed with boundary adjustments, with the remaining area still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

Q11-Mother Hubbard

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area ranked by the ID Team as HIGH in the evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, due to its proximity to the Blue Range Wilderness and Blue Range primitive area.

Steps 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (31.49%), the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless area, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However, restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

Step 3: 49.59% of the area with a moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring if fire should occur during extreme fire weather conditions. In other circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope). Much of this area is within IRA, and with slopes of 40% or greater.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. However, the range permittee has provided comments to the analysis process that the area is frequently accessed by motorized means through an existing routes on the Blue Spring Trail and within the Pace Creek drainage, and grazing operations would be significantly operationally and financially impacted if this access were restricted.

Step 6: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, this fence in the northeast could be excluded and retain an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics (dependent in part upon a recommendation that would include the IRA within the Apache-Sitgreaves NF).

Step 7: Adjustments to the area boundaries to exclude range fences allow for an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, although the manageability would be of greater quality if the adjacent IRA on the Apache-Sitgreaves was included in the recommendation.

Step 8: Although there is strong public support in favor of recommending the area, and exclusion of range fencelines would leave a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, recommendation for the area to be designated would have a significant operational and financial impact

to the range permittee of the allotment the area is contained within. Because of its relatively small size and its location and orientation, the forest supervisor considered its relative contribution to the forest niche for wilderness against impacts to grazing operations.

The area is not recommended in this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

There is 14.29% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 31.49% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 5,689.29 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain small areas important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, however these are easily accommodated by making only minor boundary adjustments.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

QG1-Nolan North

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended - 6,717.67 acres

Step 1: The area fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, due to its proximity to the Blue Range Wilderness and Blue Range primitive area. The area was ranked as HIGH by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as "may be suitable" (21.09%), the entirety of this is within inventoried roadless area, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However, restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

In other circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don't have (related to slope). Much of this area is within IRA, and with slopes of 40% or greater.

Step 3: 68.43% of the area contains forested ERUs that have a moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring if fire should occur during extreme fire weather conditions. Circumstances may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don't have (related to slope). Much of this area is within IRA, and with slopes of 40% or greater. Although probabilities of stand replacing fire under extreme fire weather conditions are of some concern, planned Luna project treatments serve to buffer some potential effects.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 6: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, this fence in the northeast and the south may be excluded by adjusting the boundaries and still retain an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics (dependent in part upon a recommendation that would include the IRA within the Apache-Sitgreaves NF).

Step 7: Boundary adjustments were made to account for WUI/defensible space for private property adjacent to the area. The remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics with the adjustments that have been made to the area boundaries.

Step 8: The area meets the forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, it was ranked as High in the evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and there is demonstrated public demand to recommend the area.

The area is recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 7,686.14 acres

Step 1: There is 1.10% (less than threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; moves to step 2.

Step 2: The area has been preliminarily determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that is important for them to have motorized access by members, or lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Area continues to Step 3.

Step 3: The area has been preliminarily determined to not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means. Area continues to Step 4.

Step 4: The area has been preliminarily determined to contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence contained within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized

purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, the boundaries may be modified to exclude these fencelines and the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 21.09% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area “may be suitable”; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended – 7,609 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a sizable area identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, however there is a large portion of this WUI located outside of the area that would likely create an adequate mechanically treated buffer. The remaining area within the area boundary could be treated by use of prescribed fire. Another small area may easily be accommodated by making a very minor boundary adjustment.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

QG2-Nolan South

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, due to its proximity to the Blue Range Wilderness and Blue Range primitive area, and dependent upon if adjacent areas are recommended, although the area only scored MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. However, at the forest supervisor’s discretion, the area will be carried forward to Step 2:

Step 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (76.81%), much of it is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However, restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

Step 3: 54.02% of the area contains forested ERUs that have a moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring if fire should occur during extreme fire weather conditions other circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope).

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requiring motorized access, or that have been identified as having current

or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 6: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. The fenceline in question effectively bisects this relatively small area, and making boundary adjustments to exclude are not possible to leave a remaining area that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Although there is public support to recommend this area, because of these factors the area is not included in this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 0.03% (below threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; moves to step 2.

Step 2: The area has been preliminarily determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that is important for them to have motorized access by members, and to not contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Area is carried to Step 3.

Step 3: The area has been determined to not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means

Step 4: The area contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Boundary adjustments would leave an area not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 76.81% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 4,403.70 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 of Alternative 5 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

QR1-Upper Frisco Box

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, although it was ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE/HIGH in the evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

There is 23.22% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 20.66% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; the area boundary may be adjusted to an area containing only 9.6% suitability and still be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Remaining polygon moves on to Step 2.

Step 2: There is 61.82% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area more of the area contains forested ERUs with the moderate or higher probability of high severity. A boundary adjustment to exclude these would leave only the lower east lobe, however this remaining area would be of manageable size. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area has been determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that is important for them to have motorized access by members, and does not contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4

Step 4: The area has been determined to contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that also require maintenance or access by motorized means. Because they are dispersed on the mesa top throughout the area, and because Step 5 would also establish that most of the interior fenceline (more than 1 mile in overall length) is accessible by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means, it would not be possible to adjust area boundaries to eliminate these with a remaining area that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 36,690.84 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain small areas identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, however this may easily be accommodated by making a very minor boundary adjustment.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

QR2-Upper Frisco Box East

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 19.62% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 20.66% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 14,252.45 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain sizable areas in the east and south portions identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, however these could be removed from the boundary remaining and the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

R1-Eagle Peak

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

Additional factors considered by the responsible official include: the area is a tribal area of importance that is important to be accessed by motorized means by tribal members.

The area is not recommended in this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 16.65% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; meets criteria for probability of high severity fire; adjustment to polygon boundary can be made leaving a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics east of Eagle Peak lookout; move to step; adjusted polygon moves to step 2.

Step 2: Eagle Peak is a tribal area of importance that is important to have access by motorized means for tribal members.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 62.26% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; adjustments to boundary would result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics to the northwest; move to step 2

Step 2: There is 25.83% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area more of the area contains forested ERUs with the moderate or higher probability of high severity. Boundary adjustment to exclude more of the forested ERUs with the moderate or higher probability of high severity would not leave a polygon manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 31,169.45 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a single small area to the northwest identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, however this may easily be accommodated by making a very minor boundary adjustment.

The area is recommended in this alternative.

R3-Moraga Canyon

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

There is 39.28% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 43.25% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area “may be suitable”; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 8,161.82 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a single small area to the southeast identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, however this may easily accommodated by making a very minor boundary adjustment.

The area is recommended in this alternative.

R4- O-Bar-O Mountain

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for wilderness, although it was ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE/HIGH in the Evaluation, it is moderately small in size compared to, does not contribute to, and is remote from the existing wilderness complex.

The area is not recommended in this alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 30.63% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 17.98% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area that “may be suitable”; making boundary adjustments to exclude these areas creates a polygon manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: There is 28.92% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area is forested ERUs with moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring if fire should occur during extreme fire weather

conditions ; adjusted polygon to exclude these areas would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 18,555.32 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a single, very small area to the north, and two areas slightly within the area boundary identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However these may easily be excluded by making very minor boundary adjustments.

The area is recommended in this alternative.

R9-Wagon Tongue

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, it was only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation, and there are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

There is 27.76% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 51.19% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 11,462.60 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain several sizeable areas to the west, north, and east identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if the eastern third of the area is removed, and there is an adjustment to the north and west boundaries, although it is borderline, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

R10a - Gila Addition North Reserve

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: Although the area is adjacent to existing wilderness, it was only ranked by the ID Team as moderate in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and would not be a significant addition to the forest niche by contributing to the existing wilderness complex, and it would not serve to significantly enhance wilderness values of the existing area.

The area is not recommended in this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Recommended - 536.32 acres

Step 1: There is 0.73% (well below threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs, moves to Step 2.

Step 2: The area has been preliminarily determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that are important for them to have motorized access by members, and to not contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Area is carried to Step 3.

Step 3: The area has been determined to not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means

Step 4: The area contains less than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Boundary adjustments would leave an area not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 19% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 536.32 acres

Steps 1 and 2: The area meets the criteria of Alternative 5 for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does it does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

R10b - Gila Addition North Reserve

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: Although the area is adjacent to existing wilderness meeting the forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, it was only ranked as moderate by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and would not be a substantial addition to the existing wilderness complex.

The area is not recommended in this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Recommended - 656.51 acres

There is 0.91% (below threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; moves to step 2.

Step 2: The area has been preliminarily determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that are important for them to have motorized access by members, and to not contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Area is carried to Step 3.

Step 3: The area has been determined to not contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The area is recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Recommended - 206.86 acres

Step 1: There is 9.34% (less than 10% threshold) identified as "may be suitable" unmodified area will move to step 2;

Step 2: There is greater than 10% (56.6%) of forested ERUs within the area that have a moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring if fire should occur during extreme fire weather conditions. However, this may be addressed by removing the eastern side of the area, leaving the portion west of Snow Lake, which is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics Move on to Step 3.

Step 3: The area has been determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that is important for them to have motorized access by members, and to not contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Move to Step 4.

Step 4: The area has been determined not to contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means (tanks and reservoirs maintained by motorized means, pipelines and tanks). Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The area has been determined to not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence contained within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The area is recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 656.51 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 of Alternative 5 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

RB1-East Elk Mountain

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation. It is moderately small in size compared to, and is remote from the existing wilderness complex, and there are no compelling reasons or public demand expressed to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

There is 12.09% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 51.19% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary retaining only the northernmost portion would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 8,924.25 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area boundary was adjusted to exclude defensible space adjacent to private property on the northeastern side.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

RG1-Aspen Mountain

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended - 19,052.92 acres

Step 1: The area fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, due to its proximity to the Blue Range Wilderness and Blue Range primitive area, separated only by a low-development lightly traveled road. This area also ranked by the ID Team as OUTSTANDING in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and would be a high-quality addition to the wilderness complex.

Steps 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (30.14%), the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

Step 3: There is 30.91% of the area more of the area contains forested ERUs with the moderate or higher probability of high severity. In other circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don't have (related to slope). In this circumstance, the majority of the high severity probability is also located in an area that recently already experienced a stand-replacement fire event.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. However, at the forest supervisor's discretion Leggett tank was excluded from the area boundary

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means, but these may be excluded with boundary adjustments. On the north boundary, permittee accesses with motorized equipment the Aspen Mountain Corral and the fenceline to the lower end of Section 13. On the western side of the 50790A division fence, the permittee is able to access the fenceline with motorized equipment for a short distance in Section 27. The natural barrier along FR209 is excluded in Sections 28 and 33 to allow motorized access for grazing permittee to access intermittent locations for fencing pinch-point gaps. Excluded West Pueblo Trap and fencelines near the Pueblo Park Road and incorporating fencelines east of the cherrystem for the lookout, access road, accompanying area, fencelines in lower end around Pueblo Park Campground and also Section 4 on east side that are all currently accessed with motorized equipment.

Step 7: Boundary adjustments were made to accommodate defensible space and WUI areas adjacent to private property, but still leave a remaining area that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 8: There is public support and compelling reasons for the forest supervisor to recommend the area. The modified area is included in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

There is 39.03% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 30.14% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 21,894.63 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a single very small area to the southwest that is identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However this may easily be excluded by making a very minor boundary adjustment.

The area is recommended in this alternative.

RG2-Devils Creek

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, although it ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE/HIGH in the Evaluation.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

There is 45.19% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 30.14% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area that “may be suitable”; after boundary adjustment to exclude the lobes on the southeastern and eastern sides, the polygon is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: There is 18.83% (more than threshold of 10%) of the area is forested ERUs with moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring if fire should occur during extreme fire weather conditions ; adjusted boundaries to exclude these would not leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 43,382.53 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain several sizeable areas to the west, north, and southwest identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if these areas are removed with boundary adjustments, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

RG4-North Mogollon Mountains

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, although it ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE/HIGH in the Evaluation.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Recommended

Step 1: There is 3.42.% (below threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area has been preliminarily determined to not contain any tribal areas of importance or gathering areas that are important for them to have motorized access by members, and to not contain lands that have been identified as having current, or feasible potential for, wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, or fuelwood harvest. Area is carried to Step 3.

Step 3: The area has been determined to contain more than 10% of all developed water sources associated with permitted grazing that require maintenance or access by motorized means. However, boundary adjustments made to exclude these, in conjunction with those also required for Step 4, would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 4: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and

maintenance by motorized means. However, boundary adjustments to exclude these, in conjunction with adjustments made in Step 3, would leave a remaining area that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics

The area is recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 66.52% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area “may be suitable”; any adjustments to the area boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 20,397.85 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain small areas to the west identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, with an adjustment to west boundaries, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

G1-Mineral Creek

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended - 16,538.17 acres

Step 1: The area fits the Forest niche for wilderness, and would contribute as a high-quality wilderness area to a large and contiguous wilderness complex. The area is oriented adjacent to the Gila Wilderness, separated only by a low-development lightly traveled road that is only open seasonally. This area also ranked as OUTSTANDING by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, receiving the highest score of any area evaluated.

Step 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (67.17%), the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

Step 3: The area contains 18.45% forested ERUs with a moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire if a fire should occur during extreme fire weather conditions. Circumstances on the ground may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope).

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as

having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

Step 7: Additional adjustments to the area boundaries were made to exclude mining (esp. abandoned mines), defensible space, and WUI areas near private property to the west and east ends of the area. The remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 8: There is public support and compelling reasons for the forest supervisor to recommend the area. The area was ranked as Outstanding in the evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and public support to recommend the area.

The modified area is recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Recommended - 16,539.65 acres

Step 1: There is 3.66% (Less than threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; area moves on to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 3: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 4: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The area is recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 67.17% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 16,848.36 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain areas to the west and southeast identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, with adjustment to the boundaries, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

G3-Gila Rain Creek Addition

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

Although the area is adjacent to existing wilderness and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, it was only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 373.90 acres

Step 1: There is 31.02% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs. Adjustments could be made to boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire that would result an area in the far northern part, the south end, and a smaller section in the center of the polygon as additions to the existing wilderness manageable to protect their wilderness characteristics. These areas would move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The modified area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 4: Due primarily to local terrain, the modified area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area consisting of three smaller, but wilderness adjacent polygons, is recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Recommended – 923 acres

Step 1: There is 36.47% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area “may be suitable”; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: 2.20% (below threshold of 10%) in forested ERUs of the area meets the probability criteria of moderate or higher for stand replacement fire occurring during extreme fire weather conditions. Area continues on to Step 3.

Step3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. The area continues to Step 4.

Step 4: The area contains less than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 5: The area contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. A modified boundary excluding both these fencelines would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended- 1,095.39 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1, ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: Area boundaries were adjusted to adjacent to private property in the northern part of the polygon to allow for defensible space identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

G5-Park Mountain

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 38.49% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There are no lands within the evaluated that are identified as "may be suitable" for timber production.

Step 2: There are no forested ERUs within the evaluated area; proceed to step 3.

Step3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. The area continues to Step 4.

Step 4: The area contains more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Preliminarily determined a modified area boundary excluding water developments may be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, pending results of Step 5.

Step 5: The area contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. A modified boundary excluding both water sources and fencelines would not be of a size, shape, and configuration to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 10,737.21 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain several small areas to the east identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if there is an adjustment to the boundary, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

G6-Lower San Francisco

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, although it was ranked by the ID Team as OUTSTANDING in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

Other factors receiving consideration: Although this area scored as OUTSTANDING for overall wilderness character in the evaluation, this was primarily due to quality of wilderness characteristics within the narrow river corridor area, and not the outlying parts of the area that were included by virtue of being roadless and with minimal development, but do not share the high quality of the scenic, recreational, and other qualities available nearby to the river.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 23.69% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; because areas meeting elimination criteria are widely distributed and interspersed throughout the area, adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics;

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 14,746.20

Step 1: There are no lands within the evaluated that are identified as “may be suitable” for timber production.

Step 2: There are no forested ERUs within the evaluated area; proceed to step 3.

Step3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Area moves to Step 4.

Step 4: The area contains more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Preliminarily determined a modified area boundary excluding water developments to the north of the WSA, and along the southernmost boundary may be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, pending results of Step 5.

Step 5: The area contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. A modified boundary excluding both water sources and fencelines would be a complicated boundary, but still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 21,017.73 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a small area to the northeast identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if there is a very minor adjustment made to the area boundary to exclude this, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

G7-Hell Hole

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex and it was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 24.81% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs. Adjustments could be made to boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire by carving off the edges and southernmost portion with the remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics that would move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 3: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. An area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics could possibly be feasible depending upon the outcome of Step 4. Area moves on to step 4.

Step 4: The area contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. The location of these fencelines, combined with the location of water developments to be excluded from Step 3, would create several small areas of a shape and configuration that would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There are no lands within the evaluated that are identified as "may be suitable" for timber production.

Step 2: 14.55% of the area meets the probability (above threshold of 10%) in forested ERUs; however, a boundary adjustment retaining only southernmost portion creates an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics that moves to Step 3.

Step3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Area proceeds to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. An area

manageable to protect wilderness characteristics may be feasible depending upon the outcome of Step 5. Area moves on to step 5.

Step 5: The area contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. The location of these fencelines, combined with the location of water developments to be excluded, would create several small areas of a shape and configuration that would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 19,623.15 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain several small areas to the north identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if there is an adjustment to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

G8-Smoothing Iron Mesa

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, although it was ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE/HIGH in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 32.14% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. meets criteria but in a super patchy and interspersed way;

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Recommended - 3,151.87

Step 1: There are no lands within the evaluated that are identified as "may be suitable" for timber production.

Step 2: There are no forested ERUs within the evaluated area; proceed to step 3.

Step3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming

traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area contains more than 10% of water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Additional grazing developed water sources are planned within an approved NEPA decision that are not currently shown in the GIS layer. However, a modified area boundary excluding current and planned water developments may be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, pending results of Step 5.

Step 5: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of interior range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. If there is an adjustment to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 3,587.90 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 of Alternative 5 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

G9-Blue Range SE Addition

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, meeting the forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, but was only ranked by the ID team as MODERATE by the ID Team in the evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 52.71% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics;

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There are no lands within the evaluated that are identified as "may be suitable" for timber production. Continue to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no forested ERUs within the evaluated area; proceed to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Proceed to Step 4.

Step 4: The area contains one water source associated with permitted grazing and requiring frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Preliminarily determined a modified area boundary excluding water development may be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, pending results of Step 5.

Step 5: The area contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. A modified boundary excluding both water sources and fencelines would not be of a size, shape, and configuration to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 2,855.51 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a small area to the south identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if there is an adjustment to the boundary to exclude this, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

G10-Blue Range SW Addition

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, nominally meeting the forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex; but was only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 33.32% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs. Adjustments could be made to boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire by carving off the edges and southernmost portion with the remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics that would move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for

members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Area moves on to Step 4.

Step 4: The area contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. A modified boundary excluding these fencelines would not be of a size, shape, and configuration to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 5.48% (below 10% threshold) of lands that are “may be suitable”. Move to step 2.

Step 2: The area exceeds the probability threshold of 10% (16.89%) in forested ERUs; boundary adjustments would not create an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 3,709.25 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

G11-Gila Dry Creeks Addition

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, nominally meeting the forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, but was ranked only as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 1,973.42 acres

There is 15.16% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to remove area to remove south-central lobe leaves remaining area contiguous to wilderness and manageable to protect wilderness characteristics; proceed to step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for

members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Modified area continues to Step 3.

Step 3: The modified area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Modified area moves on to step 4.

Step 4: The modified area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is included within this alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 373.17 acres

Step 1: There is 12.84% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area lands that are “may be suitable”; boundary adjustments carve out small area on northwest side adjacent wilderness boundary that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics and move to Step 2.

Step 2: No forested ERUs; the modified area moves to Step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the modified polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Proceed to Step 4.

Step 4: The modified area does not contain any water sources associated with permitted grazing and requiring frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. The area moves on to Step 5.

Step 5: The modified area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 2,827.23 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a small area to the southwest and northeast identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if there is an adjustment to the boundary to exclude this, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

G12-Gila-Whitewater Addition

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended – 1,959.84 acres

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, meeting the forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and was ranked by the ID Team as Moderate/High by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: There are no lands within the evaluated that are identified as “may be suitable” for timber production.

Step 3: 31.02% of area contains forested ERUs with a high probability of stand replacement fire if fire occurs during extreme fire weather conditions. Circumstances may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope).

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does contain a water source within the area that is associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. On western side, adjusted the boundary to run along the natural barrier (Section 4) to exclude the Gold Drip pipeline. The remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, boundary adjustments made following natural boundary line in Step 5 also excludes some motorized accessible fenceline (replaced after Whitewater Baldy fire).

Step 7: Additional adjustments to the area boundaries were made to allow for WUI/defensible space. Because the area is adjacent to existing wilderness, the remaining portion after boundary adjustments were made is still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 8: There are compelling reasons in favor of recommending this area to congress for wilderness designation; the modified area is recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Recommended - 3,463.27 acres

Step 1: There is 2.74% (less than threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs. The area would move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming

traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does contain water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments were made to exclude a pipeline to on the west end of the area, leaving the remaining area still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Area moves on to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. A boundary adjustment to exclude these, in tandem with those to exclude the pipeline in Step 3, would remove the western end of the polygon but leave an area still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is included within this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There are no lands within the evaluated that are identified as “may be suitable” for timber production. Moves on to Step 2.

Step 2: The area meets the probability threshold above 10% in forested ERUs (31.02%) and boundary adjustments to produce an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics is not possible.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 2,223.42 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

The area does contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, boundary adjustments to exclude these would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

WSB1-Rabb Park

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended - 27,002.36 acres

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked by the ID Team as High in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, is of a moderately large size, the area fits the Forest niche, and would contribute as a quality wilderness area to a large and contiguous wilderness complex.

Step 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (41.05%) the bulk of this area is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

Step 3: 4.40% of this area contains forested ERUs with a moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring when fire occurs under extreme fire weather conditions.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, although there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking. However, these trails were identified as being less frequently used, and by fewer individuals for this activity, and were identified as being a lower priority for concern by mountain biking stakeholders. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest. At forest supervisor discretion, the area is not excluded for this consideration.

Step 5: The area does water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) dirt tanks, developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. The permittee also accesses the southwestern part of the area using two administrative use only roads. Boundary adjustments can be made to exclude these from the area and the remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain, most fencelines within the area are accessed for maintenance by horseback. However, the southwest portion of the area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, boundary adjustments can be made in tandem with those made for step 5 to exclude these with the remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 7: Additional adjustments were made to exclude mining activity areas and defensible space near private property and campgrounds. The remaining area after boundary adjustments were made is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 8: There are compelling reasons in favor of recommending this area to Congress for wilderness designation; the modified area is recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 25,984.31 acres

Step 1: There is 3.36% (below the threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Although these trails were identified as being lightly used for mountain biking, and were identified as lower priority for concern by local biking groups, in keeping with the alternative emphasis of minimizing effects to existing recreation activities any that remain in the modified area will also be removed from the boundary by cherrystemming. The modified area excluding these trails is separated into separate areas adjacent to the existing wilderness that are manageable to protect wilderness characteristics and move to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) dirt tanks, developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. The permittee also accesses the southwestern part of the area using two administrative use only roads. Boundary adjustments can be made to exclude these from the area and the remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Area moves on to step 4.

Step 4: Due primarily to local terrain, most fencelines within the area are accessed for maintenance by horseback. However, the southwest portion of the area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, boundary adjustments can be made in tandem with those made for step 3 to exclude these with the remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: 41.05% of the area (more than 10% threshold) may be suitable for timber production; adjusted boundary polygon still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics though this reduced area is borderline to unmanageable due to a cherrystem pinch and the narrowness of the eastern portion; proceed to Step 2.

Step 2: Remaining area does not contain 10% (1.51%) of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; reshaped area remains as is and moves to step 3;

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational users, including motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Although these trails were identified as being lightly used for mountain biking, and were identified as lower priority for concern by local advocacy groups, in keeping with the alternative emphasis of minimizing effects to existing recreation activities any that remain in the modified area will also be removed from the boundary. The modified area excluding these trails is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics and does not move to Step 4; however, the area does also contain range infrastructure that would also meet the criterion for eliminating this reduced area from further consideration as well.

The modified area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 42,878.37 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain areas along State Hwy 152, and a small area to the east, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

WB1-Taylor Creek

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended – 10,011.80 acres

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked as High by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and fits the Forest niche, and would contribute as a quality wilderness addition to a large and fairly contiguous wilderness complex.

Steps 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (51.34%), the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

Step 3: 13.76% of this area contains forested ERUs with a moderate or higher probability of stand replacement fire occurring when fire occurs under extreme fire weather conditions. In other circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope). However, with appropriate boundary adjustments to exclude areas of greatest concern, the remaining polygon would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) stock tanks, developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments to exclude these will be made to coincide with those for other concerns

Step 6: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, boundary adjustments may be made to exclude these and the remaining area, in conjunction with other boundary adjustments for other concerns, would leave the area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 7: Additional adjustments were made at the forest supervisor’s discretion to exclude cherrystem roads and private property in conjunction with those made to address other concerns. The remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 8: There are compelling reasons and public support in favor of recommending this modified area to Congress for wilderness designation; the modified area is recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 6,672.13 acres

Step 1: There is 5.18% (below threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) stock tanks, developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, boundary adjustments like those made for Alternative 2 would leave an area with less than 1 mile of fenceline accessible by motorized means, but still be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The reconfigured area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 21.13% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area that is “may be suitable”; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 26,851.56 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

The area does contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment, boundary adjustments to exclude these would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

WB2-Gila Addition East

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked by the ID Team as High in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and fits the Forest niche for contributing as a quality addition to a large and fairly contiguous wilderness complex.

Step 2: Less than 10% (2.98%) may be suitable for timber production.

Step 2: Less than 10% (3.26%) of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area contains more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) stock tanks, developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 6: The area does contain range fences within its boundaries that are currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

Step 7: Additional adjustments to the area boundaries would need to be made to account for defensible space around private property and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Step 8: The WB2-Gila Addition East area contains a significant number of range developments accessed with motorized equipment distributed throughout the polygon. These pervasive developments made it difficult to carve a viable polygon. Major water developments constructed and maintained with motorized equipment include Snafu Tank (Section 11) and Juniper Tank (Section 14) as well as some fencelines likely accessed with motorized equipment. Other considerations in the forest supervisor's decision include private property/defensible space, wildland urban interface, and cherry stem roads.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 1,433.97 acres

Step 1: There is 50.96% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs, but it is localized to the north and southeast; boundary adjustment to exclude this area will result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics that would move to Step 2

Step 2: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) stock tanks, developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. The allotment within most of the area was closed through NEPA to grazing, and permittee only maintains water sources for wildlife benefit. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The reconfigured area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. The area is closed to grazing, and most internal fencing has been removed.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 4,437.27 acres

Step 1: Less than 10% (2.98%) may be suitable for timber production; continue to Step 2.

Step 2: Less than 10% (3.26%) of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; move to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) stock tanks, developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. The allotment within most of the area was closed through NEPA to grazing, and permittee only maintains water sources for wildlife benefit. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The reconfigured area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. The area is closed to grazing, and most internal fencing has been removed.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 3,919.44 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain sizeable areas, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

WB4-Gila Addition Northeast

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, but was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended under this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 9230.28 acres

There is 10.47% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs, but, boundary adjustment removing the eastern part of the polygon makes it less than 10% used seral state layer to look at grassland piece and it isn't mapping out

as woody encroachment so the grasslands don't contribute to meeting elimination criteria. Continue to Step 2

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. However, with a boundary adjustment to exclude Gillette Tanks, Prairie Stocktank Jordan Tank, Reeds Tank, and Bell Canyon Trough, the remaining area would still be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the modified area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Boundary adjustments previously made for manageability due to other considerations effectively reduced internal range fencing within the area boundaries.

The reconfigured area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: More than 10% (52.29%) may be suitable for timber production; adjusted boundary polygon will create a small area in the easternmost part that would still be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics because it is adjacent to existing wilderness move this portion of the original polygon to Step 2.

Step 2: More than 10 % (21.85%) of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; boundary adjustments to exclude these would not leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 13,862.04 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain 2 small areas to the east and west identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

WB6-Gila Addition Beaver Creek

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, and although it was only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, it fits the Forest niche well, and would contribute as a quality addition to a large and contiguous wilderness complex. The area is carried forward to the next step at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Step 2: Only 3.25% of the area is identified as "may be suitable" for timber production.

Step 3: Only 4.99% (less than 10 %) of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) stock tanks, developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Modifications to exclude these from the area boundaries would leave areas manageable to protect wilderness character, but very limited in size and primarily due only to adjacency to existing designated wilderness areas.

Step 6: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Modifications to exclude these from the area boundaries can be made in tandem with those for Step 5, and would leave areas manageable to protect wilderness character, but very limited in size and primarily due only to adjacency to existing areas.

Step 7: Additional adjustments to the area boundaries were not made. The modified area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but is very small in size.

Step 8: There are no compelling reasons in favor of recommending this area to Congress for wilderness designation. Existing wilderness boundaries make good use of topographic features in many locations, and these additions would have a negligible or no benefits. The modified area is not recommended in this alternative at forest supervisor discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 57.19% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would leave tiny pieces not contiguous to wilderness and not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics;

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Recommended - 2,273.05 acres

Step 1: Less than 10% (3.25%) of the area is identified as "may be suitable for timber production"; area continues intact to Step 2.

Step 2: 4.99% (less than 10 %) of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; entire area moves on to step 3;

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) stock tanks, developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. However, boundary adjustments in tandem with those for step 5 could remove them and leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Boundary adjustments to exclude these would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 4252.08 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain very small areas identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area adjacent to the wilderness boundary would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

B1a-Aldo Leopold Seco Addition

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended – 4,724.09 acres

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked as HIGH in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, fits the Forest niche, and would contribute a small addition to a large and contiguous wilderness complex.

Step 2: Only 6.28% of the area is identified as “may be suitable” for timber production.

Step 3: 12.06% of the area contains forested ERUs with a high probability of stand replacement fire if fire occurs during extreme fire weather conditions. . The bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, although restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals. In some circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope). However, with appropriate boundary adjustments to exclude areas of greatest concern, the remaining polygon would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments were made to exclude these from the area. Excluded the Road Mountain Storage Tank and pipeline as well as the Hells Canyon Well and surrounding fences.

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, at forest supervisor discretion, some fencelines were eliminated in conjunction with other range associated water source infrastructure.

Step 7: An adjustment to the boundary in the northern portion was also made to accommodate riparian/wildlife management in North Seco Creek at the forest supervisor's discretion. The remaining area would still be viable as manageable to protect wilderness characteristics with the boundary adjustments made.

Step 8: There are compelling reasons in favor of recommending this modified area to Congress for wilderness designation; the modified area is included in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 516.91 acres

There is 17.31% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries only a small area that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to adjacency to existing wilderness but with more than 10% "no data"; verified with seral state layer and aerial imagery; this is not woody encroached grassland so adjusted area moves to step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The reconfigured area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. The allotment within most of the area was closed through NEPA to grazing, and permittee only maintains water sources for wildlife benefit. There is planned water development near the roads outside boundary of the northernmost portion of the area, but should be excluded by the road buffer – buffer area could be extended to ensure exclusion of improvements. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The reconfigured area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline

inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. The area is closed to grazing, and most internal fencing has been removed.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 430.81 acres

Step 1: Less than 10% (6.28%) may be suitable for timber production; continue to Step 2 without alteration to the area boundaries.

Step 2: More than 10% (13.95%) of the area meets elimination criteria; however a boundary adjustment resulting in two separate polygons are manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to adjacency to existing wilderness. Move to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The reconfigured area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments made to exclude these would leave the remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. The area is closed to grazing, and most internal fencing has been removed.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 5,741.47 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

B1b-Aldo Leopold Seco Addition

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked by the ID Team as HIGH in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex. However, due to manageability concerns regarding valid existing rights associated with an adjacent private inholding, the area is not recommended in this alternative at the forest

supervisor's discretion. The forest supervisor will revisit this decision should the private property in question be legally acquired as forest system lands.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 207.95 acres

Step 1: There is 1.67% (less than threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs, move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the area boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 70.54% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area that "may be suitable"; adjustments to the boundary would make small awkwardly oriented and shaped protrusions not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 228.97 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, a boundary adjustment to exclude these leaves the remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

B1c-Aldo Leopold Seco Addition

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Recommended - 47.95 acres

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked by the ID Team as HIGH in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex.

Steps 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (47.67%), the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

Step 3: 0.11% of the area has a probability of high severity if a fire should occur under extreme fire weather conditions.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 6: The area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

Step 7: Additional adjustments to the area boundaries were made for defensible space. These adjustments will be reassessed should the adjacent private lands be acquired by the forest and recommended for inclusion in wilderness as well.

Step 8: The area is recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Recommended - 77.96 acres

Step 1: None of this area contains moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; moves to step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within area boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 40.38 acres

Step 1: More than 10% (47.67%) may be suitable for timber production, however a boundary adjustment leaves a polygon manageable to protect wilderness characteristics regardless of size due to adjacency to existing wilderness. Continue to Step 2

Step 2: Less than 10% (0.11%) meets probability of severity elimination criteria; move to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The reconfigured area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 47.95 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. Boundary adjustments to exclude these would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

B5-Stone Creek

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

Step 1: There is 38.33% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 25.09% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area “may be suitable”; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 8,382.72 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

B8-Beaverhead

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

Step 1: There is 26.07% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to area boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 26.07% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area “may be suitable”; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 8,055.22 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain areas identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

B9-Aldo Leopold Addition East

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex but was ranked by the ID Team as LOW in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended under this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 31.46% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would only leave an oddly shaped and configured protrusion from the wilderness boundary that would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics;

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 11,909.25 acres

Step 1: Less than 10% (4.93%) may be suitable for timber production, continue to Step 2

Step 2: Less than 10 % (9.79%) of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; move to step 3;

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. The allotment within most of the area was closed through NEPA to grazing, and permittee only maintains water sources for wildlife benefit. There is planned water development near the roads outside boundary of the northernmost portion of the area, but should be excluded by the road buffer – buffer area could be extended to ensure exclusion of improvements. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. The allotment within most of the area was closed through NEPA to grazing, and most internal fencing has been removed.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Not Recommended

The area does not meet Step 1 of Alternative 5 criteria ranking MODERATE or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, only ranking as LOW.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

B10-Aldo Leopold Addition NE

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended – 8,381.05

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked by the ID Team as HIGH in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex.

Step 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (41.89%), the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

In other circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope).

Step 3: 17.70% of this area has a moderate or higher probability of the occurrence of stand replacement fire if a fire should occur under extreme fire weather conditions. Limitation to mechanical treatment considerations are the same as those for Step 2.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments were made to exclude improvements Sheep Creek Well (Section 6), Bald Eagle Windmill (Section 13), Monument Well (Section 14) [not sure if this is the same as Bee Hive], Woodhouse Spring (Section 13), Tom Davis Tricktank (Section 3) and the planned (NEPA completed, funding in place) dirt tank (Section 7) from the area.

Step 6: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. These fencelines were excluded from the area in tandem with the exclusions for improvements in Step 5.

Step 7: Adjustments to the area boundaries also excluded abandoned mines in the eastern part of the area (Sections 12 and 13) and defensible space adjacent to private property. The remaining area after all boundary adjustments were made is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 8: There are compelling reasons in favor of recommending this modified area to Congress for wilderness designation; the area is included in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 4,076.10 acres

Step 1: There is 17.44% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to keep a small area immediately adjacent existing wilderness and then carve out the northwest lobe; move to step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The reconfigured area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the reconfigured area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The reconfigured area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: More than 10% (41.89%) may be suitable for timber production; adjust boundary to keep only southeastern lobe and continue to Step 2.

Step 2: Less than 10% (0.30%) of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire in the remaining modified area; move to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The reconfigured area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments were made to ensure exclusion of Sheep Creek Well (Section 6), Bald Eagle Windmill (Section 13), Monument Well (Section 14) [not sure if this is the same as Bee Hive], Woodhouse Spring (Section 13), and the planned (NEPA completed, funding in place) dirt tank (Section 7).from the area. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the reconfigured area after adjustments for Step 4 does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries

that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The area is not recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 15,180.84 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. After boundary adjustments to remove these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

B11-Aldo Leopold Addition Southeast

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended - 943.90 acres

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked as MODERATE/HIGH by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex.

Step 2: Only 1.8% of this area is identified as may be suitable for timber production.

Step 3: 5.65% of the area contains a high probability of stand replacement fire occurring if fire should occur under extreme fire weather conditions.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest..

Step 5: The area does contain water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. However, adjustments were made to exclude some range infrastructure at the forest supervisor's discretion for the developed springs in Section 7.

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, boundary adjustments were made to exclude some range fences at forest supervisor discretion.

Step 7: Adjustments to the area boundaries also excluded the non-system road commented on by Sierra SWCD [GIS shows this as a trail) and to remove mining activity in the southern part of the area that was labeled in the Inventory as B1e. The remaining modified area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 8: There are compelling reasons in favor of recommending this modified area to Congress for wilderness designation; the modified area is included in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 943.37 acres

Step 1: There is 10.94% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries result in a modified area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to adjacency to existing wilderness; reduced polygon moves to step 2.

Steps 2 and 3: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Adjustments to the area boundaries were made to remove mining activity in the part of the area that was labeled in the Inventory as B1e. The remaining modified area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Adjustments to the area boundaries also excluded the non-system road commented on by Sierra SWCD [GIS shows this as a trail]. The remaining modified area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. However, boundary adjustments were made to exclude range infrastructure at the forest supervisor's discretion. In southern area, developed springs in Section 7. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The reconfigured area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Recommended - 943.37 acres

Step 1: Less than 10% (1.8%) of this area may be suitable for timber production; continue to Step 2 without alteration.

Step 2: Less than 10% (7.31%) meets elimination criteria; no boundary adjustments are needed; area moves on to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Adjustments to the area boundaries were made to remove mining activity in the part of the area that was labeled in the Inventory as B1e. The remaining modified area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Adjustments to the area boundaries also excluded the non-system road commented on by Sierra SWCD [GIS shows this as a trail]. The remaining modified area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The area does contain water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but

are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Adjustments were made to exclude some range infrastructure at the forest supervisor's discretion for the developed springs in Section 7.

Step 6: The area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 1,242.44 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

B13-Wahoo North

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not recommended

Step 1: There is 39.27% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 28.42% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area "may be suitable"; any adjustments to boundary would not result in a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 19,737.00 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain small areas along the eastern boundary identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

B14-Aldo Leopold Addition Carbonate Creek

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended – 2,818.96 acres

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked by the ID Team as HIGH in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex.

Step 2: While there is a significant amount of the area (36.50) identified as “may be suitable”, the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals. In other circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope).

Step 3: 3.26% of forested ERUs within the area have a high probability of stand-replacement fire occurring if fire should occur under extreme fire weather conditions. The consideration of the area continues to step 4.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

Step 7: Additional adjustments to the area boundaries were made to allow for exclusion of areas of active mining claims, mining developments, and defensible space around private property. The remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 8: There are compelling reasons in favor of recommending this modified area to Congress for wilderness designation. The area is recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Recommended - 3,592.32 acres

Step 1: There is 0.10% (less than threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; boundary adjustments not necessary; moves to step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the area boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Additional adjustments to the area boundaries were made to allow for exclusion of areas of active mining claims and mining developments. The remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Due to terrain and difficulty in access, most range water developments are near to the roads, and would have been excluded from the area boundaries by buffering during the Inventory step. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. The terrain precludes motorized maintenance of fences within the area, however it should be noted that much of the fence was damaged by the Silver Fire (approx. 30 miles) and is in the process of being replaced with horse access.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: More than 10%; (38.46%) “may be suitable”, boundary adjustments would not leave enough area adjacent to the existing wilderness boundary to make an addition to existing wilderness that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics;

The area is not recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 4,545.66 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics. The area does contain areas along the northern, southern, and eastern boundary identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

SB1-Sawyer Peak

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex due to the high level of development separating it from existing wilderness, although it ranked as MODERATE/HIGH by the ID Team in the Evaluation.

Other factors considered in the decision included the area being identified as a popular area for mechanized recreation (mountain biking).

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 21,006.70 acres

Step 1: There is 10.88% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs, but is concentrated. Adjustments made to boundaries to exclude the moderate to high probability in the south and east; with this portion removed the remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics that would move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Additional boundary adjustments to remove these trails would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. However, boundary adjustments to exclude these would result in an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The reconfigured area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 23,352.64 acres

Step 1: Less than 10% (4.56%) of the area is "may be suitable for timber production"; adjustment of boundary by removing areas to the northwest and the western side would leave an area still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: Area does not contain 10% or more (2.21%) of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; reshaped area will move to step 3;

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest. Additional boundary adjustments to remove these trails would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The reconfigured area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 39,150.27 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain areas along State Hwy 152 and other areas identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

S1-Mogollon Box/Tadpole Ridge

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked by the ID Team as High in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex.

Step 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (13.78%), the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis.

Step 3: 19.60% of this area has forested ERUs with a moderate to high probability of stand replacement fire occurring during extreme fire weather conditions. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals. In other circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope).

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest. Additional boundary adjustments to remove these trails would leave a

modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 5

Step 5: The area does contain a number of water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments exclude much of the Bear Creek allotment due to issues with water developments scattered throughout, particularly along Sycamore Creek and Bear Creek, and excluded Reading Mountain allotment infrastructure including Bull Spring pipeline/storage tank (Section 14/11), Dorsey Well (Section 15) and multiple fencelines, and excluded Spar Canyon allotment infrastructure including Cottonwood corral/spring (Section 10), access to Stone Tank (Section 2), and Perry Spring (Section 7).

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Boundary adjustments were made in conjunction with exclusion of water developments in Step 5.

Step 7: Additional adjustments to the area boundaries were made to exclude mining developments. The remaining area adjacent to the wilderness boundary is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. However, because the greatly reduced area (down to 6,028 acres from the original polygon of 48,067) excluded much of the area that the ranking of OUTSTANDING originated from, the forest supervisor asked the ID Team to revisit the evaluation of the remaining area. The ID Team subjected the modified area to the steps of the evaluation process, and found that it now ranked as MODERATE overall.

Step 8: Because it no longer met the criteria for scoring MODERATE/HIGH or higher, the modified area is not recommended to Congress for wilderness designation in this alternative at forest supervisor discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 930.33 acres

Step 1: There is 22.15% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs. Adjustments could be made to boundaries with the remaining areas manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, leaving a small area contiguous to the existing wilderness boundary which would move to step 3; rationale for excluding the larger area not meeting the elimination criteria for this alternative-shape and configuration; but as a separate polygon it could be viable, so there are two separate polygons that move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Additional boundary adjustments to remove trails of mountain biking use concern would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would still be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The reconfigured area does contain more than 10% of water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such

improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Additional boundary adjustments necessary to exclude these would leave an area much reduced in size, but still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The reconfigured area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, these may be excluded in tandem with Step 3 boundary changes to leave a reduced in size, but still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics area.

The modified area consisting of a single polygon adjacent to exiting wilderness is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 4,865.99 acres

Step 1: more than 10% (10.44%) may be suitable for timber production; adjusted boundary will create a smaller area that would still be manageable to protect wilderness; move this portion of the original area to Step 2.

Step 2: Modified area does not contain 10 % or greater (2.53%) area of forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire. Move to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Additional boundary adjustments to remove trails of mountain biking use concern would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The reconfigured area does contain more than 10% of water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Additional boundary adjustments necessary to exclude these would leave an area much reduced in size, but still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The reconfigured area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. However, these may be excluded in tandem with Step 3 boundary changes to leave a reduced in size, but still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics area.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 46,437.21 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain very small areas along its boundaries to the west and southwest, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

S2-Gila Middle Box

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, although it ranked by the ID Team as OUTSTANDING for wilderness characteristics in the Evaluation.

Other factors receiving consideration: Although this area scored as OUTSTANDING for overall wilderness character in the evaluation, this was primarily due to quality of wilderness characteristics within the narrow river corridor area, and not the outlying parts of the area that were included by virtue of being roadless and with minimal development, but do not share the high quality of the scenic, recreational, and other qualities available nearby to the river.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 28.65% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics;

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area contains no lands identified as "may be suitable for timber production"; the entire area will continue to Step 2.

Step 2: The area contains no forested ERUs; the entire area will be carried forward into step 3;

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Boundary adjustments to remove trails of mountain biking use concern (a section of the Continental Divide Trail currently open to mountain biking) would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain some water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Adjustments to boundaries to exclude these, as well as adjustments that would be required for step 5 would not leave an area still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is not recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 24,523.28 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain very small areas along the northeast boundary, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if slight adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude these, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

S3-Bear Mountain

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation.

Other factors considered in the decision included the area being identified as a very popular and well established area for mechanized recreation (mountain biking).

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 45.02% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area contains less than 10% (0.46%) of lands identified as "may be suitable for timber production"; the entire area will continue to Step 2.

Step 2: The area contains 20.51% of forested ERU (greater than 10% threshold) with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; boundary adjustments would create modified areas that would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics;

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 10,056.29 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain several areas along its eastern, southern, and western boundaries identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude this WUI area and defensible spaces, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

S4-North Burros

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation, and it is small in size compared to, does not contribute to, and is remote from the existing wilderness complex, and there are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

Other factors considered include: the area is identified as a popular area for mechanized recreation (mountain biking).

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 43.53% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area contains less than 10% (0.46%) of lands identified as "may be suitable for timber production"; the entire area will continue to Step 2.

Step 2: The area contains 1.29% of forested ERU with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; the area continues to Step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members. However, there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local advocacy groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

The boundary adjustments required to remove trails of mountain biking use concern would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would still be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, although of a size, shape, and configuration considered close to borderline by the IDT. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Adjustments to boundaries to exclude these (as well as those required for Step 5), would not leave an area still manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is not recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 15,556.49 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

S5-Saddle Rock

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

Other factors considered include: the area is within close proximity to heavy mining activity and a popular area for motorized recreation authorized by the Travel Management Decision. Combined with the area's small size, proximity to these uses would not provide for a quality wilderness experience of solitude and apparent naturalness for most users. Far superior experiences are available in existing designated wilderness and other recommended areas on the forest.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 24.70% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustments to polygon boundaries to exclude areas with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics;

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area contains less than 10%; of lands identified as "may be suitable for timber production"; the entire area will continue to Step 2.

Step 2: The area contains no forested ERUs with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; the area continues to Step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Area moves on to Step 5.

Step 5: The area does contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. A boundary adjustment is to exclude these and leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics is not possible.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 6,519.45 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

S6a-Gila Addition SW

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, meeting the forest wilderness niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex but was only ranked as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended under this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 10.57 acres

Step 1: There is 30.30% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs. Adjustments could be made to boundaries with one small section manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, contiguous to the existing wilderness boundary which would move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming

traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The modified area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Area moves on to Step 4.

Step 4: The modified area does not contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is included within this alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 119.54 acres

Step 1: The area contains less than 10%; (0.20%) of lands identified as “may be suitable for timber production”; the entire area will continue to Step 2.

Step 2: The area contains 63.95% of forested ERUs (greater than 10% threshold) with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; 3 small polygons immediately adjacent to existing wilderness boundary can be included in a modified area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics; the modified area continues to Step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The modified area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Area moves on to Step 5.

Step 5: The modified area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area consisting of 3 small portions adjacent to existing wilderness is included within this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 447.10 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a small area along its eastern boundary, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude this WUI area, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

S6b-Gila Addition SW

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, meeting the forest wilderness niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex but was only ranked as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended under this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 270.09 acres

Step 1: There is 13.25% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs. Adjustments could be made to boundaries with the remaining northwest section manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, contiguous to the existing wilderness boundary which would move to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Any boundary adjustments required to remove trails of mountain biking use concern would still leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Area moves on to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is included within this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area contains 25.06% lands identified as "may be suitable for timber production"; boundary adjustment would leave a small area adjacent existing wilderness boundary manageable to protect wilderness characteristics; the area continues to Step 2;

Step 2: The reconfigured area contains less than 10% (7.26%) of forested ERU with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire; the area continues to Step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking,

that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Any boundary adjustments required to remove trails of mountain biking use concern would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to being adjacent to existing wilderness. Continue to Step 4:

Step 4: The modified area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments to remove these would not leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not included within this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 4,558.12 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a small area along its eastern boundary, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude this WUI area, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

S6d-Gila Addition SW

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, meeting the forest wilderness niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex but was only ranked as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended under this alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Recommended - 248.41 acres

Step 1: There is 10.80% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs. Adjustments could be made to boundaries to exclude these areas and the modified polygon moves to step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other

wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Any boundary adjustments required to remove trails of mountain biking use concern would still leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. A boundary adjustment would not leave an addition that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 4: The area does contain more than 1 mile of fence of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Boundary adjustments to exclude these would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is more than 10% (23.72%) of lands identified as “may be suitable for timber production”; carve out polygon to exclude “may be suitable”; move to step 2

Step 2: There is more than 10% (45.26%) of the area contains of forested ERU with moderate or greater probability of high severity fire if fire should occur during extreme fire weather conditions, that is interspersed and directly adjacent to wilderness boundary. Boundary adjustments that would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics are not possible.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 1,040.37 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

S7-Burro Peak

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

Other factors considered include: the area is identified as a popular area for mechanized recreation (mountain biking).

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 32.02% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs. Adjustment of the area boundary to exclude moderate and higher probabilities would not leave a remaining area that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: More than 10% (23.72%) of the area identified as “may be suitable for timber productions”; and boundary adjustments would not leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 7,105.63 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a small area to the west, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, this area does not appear to be near any private lands or values at risk, but for purposes of meeting the alternative criteria, with any adjustments made to the boundary to exclude this WUI area, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

S8-Knight Peak

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked by the ID Team as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

Other factors considered include: the area is identified as a popular area for mechanized recreation (mountain biking) and a high number of active mining claims within the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 34.76% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustment of the area boundary to exclude moderate and higher probabilities would not leave a remaining area that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: None of the area contains lands identified as “may be suitable for timber production”; move entire area unaltered to step 2

Step 2: None of the area is within forested ERUs, so the remaining area moves on without any alterations to step 3

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Any additional boundary adjustments required to remove trails of mountain biking use concern would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4 The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Area moves on to Step 5.

Step 5: The area contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Boundary adjustments are not possible to remove these and leave a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 5,293.51 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

S9-Royal John

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

Step 1: There is 10.91% (exceeds threshold of 10%) of the area with moderate or higher probability of high severity fire in grass/woodland ERUs; adjustment of the area boundary to exclude moderate and

higher probabilities would not leave a remaining area that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics; area is eliminated from the alternative; boundary adjustment would make remaining areas unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: Less than 10% of the area (4.56%) contains lands identified as “may be suitable for timber production”, move to step 2

Step 2: Less than 10% (4.56%) of the area contains forested ERUs with a high probability of stand replacement wildfire occurring under extreme fire weather conditions; move to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that are important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. A modified area moves on to Step 5.

Step 5: The modified area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Further boundary adjustments result in an area that is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not included within this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 6,915.41 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

S10-Lower Gallinas Canyon

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended

Step 1: The area does not fit the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and it only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics. There are no compelling reasons or public demand to recommend the area.

The area is not recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 11.56% (More than threshold of 10%) of the area meets elimination criteria; adjustment of the area boundary to exclude moderate and higher probabilities and keep the northeast portion that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics; move to step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Any additional boundary adjustments required to remove trails of mountain biking use concern would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Area moves on to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. It would not be possible to make boundary adjustments to exclude these with a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: More than 10% (16.52%) of the area meets eliminations criteria of lands identified as “may be suitable for timber production” for this alternative; however, making boundary adjustments eliminating the northeast portion leaves a viable area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics which moves to step 2.

Step 2: Less than 10% (0.17%) of the reconfigured area is within forested ERUs, so the remaining area moves to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking, that were identified as being moderately used for this activity, and were identified as a priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest.

Any additional boundary adjustments required to remove trails of mountain biking use concern would leave a modified area of shape and configuration that would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may

include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Area moves on to Step 5.

Step 5: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. It would not be possible to make boundary adjustments to exclude these with a remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is not included within this alternative

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 8,544.44 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a small area along State Hwy 152, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude this WUI area, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

SW1-Gila Addition Sapillo

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

Step 1: The area is adjacent to existing wilderness contributing to the forest niche of a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, and was ranked as MODERATE/HIGH by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

Steps 2: None of the area contains lands identified as “may be suitable for timber production”.

Step 3: None of the area contains forested ERUs.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

Step 7: There are significant WUI and private property defensible space issues currently present. Adjustments to the area boundaries were not made since the area is already quite small.

Step 8: There are no compelling reasons in favor of recommending this area to Congress for wilderness designation since there are not a lot of unique features gained; the area is not included in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 186.15 acres

Step 1: There is 49.56% (More than threshold of 10%); of the area meets elimination criteria; adjustment of the area boundary to exclude moderate and higher probabilities and keep the northeast portion that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics; move to step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the reconfigured polygon boundary that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does contain a water source within the reconfigured area (one tank on east side, removed from boundary) associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The reconfigured area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 256.35 acres

Step 1: None of the area contains lands identified as "may be suitable for timber production"; area will move to step 2

Step 2: None of the area is within forested ERUs, so the area moves forward to step 3

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain a water sources (one tank on east side, removed from boundary) associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Area moves on to Step 5.

Step 5: The area does not contains more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is included within this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 128.12 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain a small area along its south boundary, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude this WUI area, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

W1c-Gila Addition Lake Roberts

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

Although the area is adjacent to existing wilderness, meeting the forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex it was only ranked as MODERATE in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and would not contribute as a quality addition to the existing wilderness.

There are no compelling reasons or public demand in favor of recommending this area to Congress for wilderness designation, and it is not recommended in the alternative at forest supervisor discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 31.27% (more than 10% threshold) of the area that meets elimination criteria; adjustment of the area boundary to exclude moderate and higher probabilities would not leave a remaining area that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Recommended - 691.36 acres

Step 1: The area does not contain any lands identified as “may be suitable for timber production”; move to step 2

Step 2: None of the area is within forested ERUs, so the remaining area moves to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Boundary adjustments to exclude these would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 393.25 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contain an area along its south boundary, identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude this WUI area, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.

W3-Aldo Leopold Addition West

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended - 1,109.84 acres

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, meeting the forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, was ranked as High in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, and would contribute as a quality addition to a large and fairly contiguous wilderness complex.

Steps 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (53.41%), the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

Step 3: There is 14.04% of the area with forested ERUs that have a moderate or higher probability for occurrence of stand replacement fire under extreme fire weather conditions. In many circumstances, conditions may be incompatible with proposed plan standards intended to prevent irreversible damage to soil, slope and other watershed conditions. Those standards do allow for mechanical treatments if fire behavior presents a greater threat to watershed conditions or WUI values, but it would require equipment that local operators don’t have (related to slope).

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Step 5: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements.

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

Step 7: Adjustments to the area boundaries were made to align with the ID Team’s recommendation that the area be reduced and localized, and boundaries adjusted to terrain features.

Step 8: There are compelling reasons in favor of recommending this modified area to Congress for wilderness designation;

The area is recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor's discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 1,109.13 acres

Step 1: There is only 1.60% (less than 10% threshold) of the area meets elimination criteria; therefore whole evaluated area is carried forward to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does not contain more than 10% of all water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended:

Step 1: More than 10% of the area is identified as "may be suitable for timber production; no viable polygon from any potential boundary adjustments.

The area is not recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 3,389.14 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

W4-Mcknight Addition

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Modified Area Recommended: - 11,093.88 acres

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness, was ranked by the ID Team as OUTSTANDING in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics, it fits the Forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex very well, and it would contribute as a quality wilderness area to a large and contiguous wilderness complex.

Steps 2: While there is a significant amount of the area identified as “may be suitable” (36.85%), the bulk of this is within inventoried roadless areas, therefore timber production is not compatible with desired conditions and will be removed in the course of the next steps of timber suitability analysis. However restoration treatments are acceptable under certain conditions and with necessary approvals.

Step 3: 8.33% of the area has moderate or higher probability of the occurrence of stand replacement fire if fire occurs under extreme fire weather conditions.

Step 4: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking. However, these trails were identified as being lightly used for this activity, and were identified as lower priority for concern by local biking groups. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access and fuelwood harvest. At forest supervisor discretion, the area is not excluded for this consideration.

Step 5: The area does contain water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments were made to exclude Cabin Well (Section 14) and Dutchman Tank (Section 13). A cherry stem was created to allow access Hay Tank #2 (Section 24)

Step 6: Due primarily to local terrain and other circumstances, the area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

Step 7: A minor boundary adjustment was also made to exclude a fish barrier in the southwestern part of the area. Adjustments made to the area boundaries leave the remaining area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Step 8: There are compelling reasons in favor of recommending this modified area to Congress for wilderness designation; the modified area is recommended in the alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Modified Area Recommended - 11,049.83acres

Step 1: There is only 2.92% (Less than 10% threshold) of the area meets elimination criteria; therefore whole evaluated area is carried forward to Step 2.

Step 2: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as sacred or as gathering areas by tribal communities requesting motorized access for members, however there are trails identified as having current wilderness nonconforming recreational use in the form of mountain biking.. The area has not been identified as having current or potential for other wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to), motorized access, and fuelwood harvest.

Although these trails were identified as being lightly used for mountain biking, and were identified as lower priority for concern by local biking groups, in keeping with the alternative emphasis of minimizing effects to existing recreation activities any that remain in the modified area will also be removed from the boundary. The modified area excluding these trails is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics and move to Step 3.

Step 3: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the reconfigured area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Boundary adjustments were made to exclude Cabin Well (Section 14) and Dutchman Tank (Section 13). A cherry stem was created to allow access Hay Tank #2 (Section 24). Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The modified area does not contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means.

The modified area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 4: Not Recommended

Step 1: 36.85% (More than 10% threshold) of the area contains lands identified as “may be suitable for timber production”; adjusted boundary would not leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in this alternative.

Alt 5: Recommended - 12,458.50 acres

The area meets the criteria for Steps 1 and 2 ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics, and does not contain defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment.

The area is recommended in this alternative without alteration.

W7-Gila Addition East

Alt 1: Not applicable

Alt 2: Not Recommended:

The area is adjacent to existing wilderness meeting the forest niche for contributing to a large, fairly contiguous wilderness complex, but it was only ranked as MODERATE by the ID Team in the Evaluation for wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended under this alternative at the forest supervisor’s discretion.

Alt 3: Not Recommended

There is 41.56% (over the 10% threshold) of the area that meets elimination criteria; adjustment of the area boundary would not leave a remaining area that is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is not recommended in the alternative.

Alt 4: Modified Area Recommended - 642.37 acres

Step 1: Less than 10% of the area (3.06%) contains lands identified as “may be suitable for timber production”; entire area will move forward to step 2.

Step 2: Less than 10% of the area is within forested ERUs (1.91%), so the entire area will be carried forward to step 3.

Step 3: There are no known areas within the polygon that have been identified as areas of importance or as gathering areas by tribal communities that is important for them to have motorized access for members, or that have been identified as having current or potential for wilderness nonconforming traditional or recreational uses, including (but not limited to) mountain biking, motorized access, and fuelwood harvest. Continue to Step 4.

Step 4: The area does contain more than 10% of all water sources within the area that are associated with permitted grazing and require frequent maintenance or access by motorized means. Such improvements may include (but are not limited to) developed springs or wells, pipelines, solar panels, pumps, large above ground water storage structures or similar types of improvements. Excluding leaves manageable. Continue to Step 5.

Step 5: The area does contain more than 1 mile of the total length of range fence within its boundaries that is currently accessed by the permittee for authorized purposes of fenceline inspection, repairs and maintenance by motorized means. Boundary adjustments to exclude these would leave an area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area is recommended under this alternative.

Alt 5: Modified Area Recommended - 564.03 acres

Step 1: The area meets the criteria for ranking moderate or higher in the evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

Step 2: The area does contains areas identified as important to defensible space adjacent to private property or WUI areas identified as a priority for restoration with mechanical equipment. However, if adjustments are made to the boundary to exclude this WUI area, the remaining area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The modified area is recommended in this alternative.